



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee February 22, 2023

Testimony in Opposition to H.B. 5653 **An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition To Provide Funding For Community Gun Violence and Intervention Program Grants**

Co-Chairs Senator Fonfara, and Representative Horn; Ranking Members Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman; and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in opposition to **HB 5653, An Act Establishing an Excise Tax on Ammunition To Provide Funding For Community Gun Violence and Intervention Program Grants**.

Our state already has an excessive amount of taxes, regulations, and some of the most restrictive firearm laws in the country, and this proposed bill would be yet another threat to our small businesses, sportsmen, hunters and thousands of law-abiding citizens (many in my district) whom have state firearm permits.

My district borders Rhode Island, and it is full of several generations of avid hunters, sportsmen, and defenders of their homes and families. My district also has many small firearm and accessory shops that provide a great service to our residents. This tax on firearm ammunition is a direct attack on the people of my district. If this legislation passes, many residents have already expressed that they will simply go to a town or two over in Rhode Island or other states to purchase their ammunition and other accessories. H.B. 5653 is placing these small gun shops and the greater local economy in immediate jeopardy.

I respectfully ask the committee to please consider all these adverse consequences of passing this legislation that is targeting and will be extremely harmful to many people and small businesses in my district and throughout Connecticut. I strongly urge my colleagues not vote this bill out of committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lanoue

State Representative – 45th District

Proudly serving – Griswold, Ledyard, Lisbon, Preston, Voluntown